MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D. C., May 4, 1945.

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1945 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, May 4, 1945. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Finley,
also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Administrative Officer.

Mr. Lamb had arranged to attend the meeting but telephoned to the Chairman on the morning of May 4th that he was threatened with a severe cold, which prevented attendance, and he gave the Chairman authority to act for him.

Mr. Holabird reported inability to attend the meeting on account of illness. (A dispatch was received on May 5th that Mr. Holabird had died in Chicago on May 4th, on his 59th birthday).

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on February 16, 1945, were approved.

2. REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE: Chairman Clarke reported that the Committee on White House Furnishings met with Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House on March 23d, and in company with her inspected the State Rooms of the White House. Mrs. Harriet B. Pratt, Chairman of the Committee, submitted a report for the information of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts (Exhibit A). Also Mrs. Pratt sent a letter which she received from Mrs. J. M. Helm, Mrs. Truman's Secretary, stating that Mrs. Truman is interested in the work of the Committee (Exhibit B).

3. PORTRAIT OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: Under date of April 24, 1945, the following letter was received from Mr. Crim:

The White House,
Washington

April 24, 1945.

My dear Major Clarke:

There is in the White House at the present time a portrait of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Ellen Emmet Rand.

Mrs. Roosevelt says this Rand portrait is the one which the President always intended to leave at the White House.

Will your Commission please advise me what has to be done in order to have this portrait accepted by the Government, and displayed on the walls of the White House along with the portraits of the other Presidents.

Yours very truly,
H. G. Crim,
Chief Usher.

The Commission inspected the portrait at the White House during the afternoon. It was noted that the portrait was painted in the year 1934. The Commission approved the portrait (Exhibit C).

4. PORTRAIT OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD: The Secretary reported the receipt of the portrait of President James Garfield by Cal Curtis, which the Garfield family wished to present to the White House, to take the place of the existing one there.

The Commission inspected the portrait and considered it a great improvement over the one in the White House. The Commission approved the portrait and arranged to have it sent to the White House (Exhibit D).

5. DESIGNS FOR ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS AT GALLINGER HOSPITAL: Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, in company with A. L. Kundzin of his office, submitted a design for a Pediatric Building for Gallinger Hospital. The problem was to fit the two buildings into the existing Gallinger Hospital Group.

The designs were given particular attention by Dr. Cret and they were approved with the following recommendations:

Pediatric Building: Omit the bands of limestone trim from the two middle stories; and make the glass block panel in the stairway narrower.

Laboratory Building: Omit the central bands of limestone from the three-story building; and make the glass block panel in the stairway narrower.

A report was sent to Mr. Wyeth (Exhibit E).

6. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LIBRARY BUILDING: Mr. Wyeth presented a drawing of the part of the new District of Columbia Library building, facing Pennsylvania Avenue at Sixth Street, and there was a brief discussion of the project to complete the building as a Post War project. The Commission requested that Mr. Wyeth submit a detailed drawing of the entire building at a future meeting of the Commission.

7. LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR WEST POTOMAC PARK: Major General U. S. Grant III, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, in company with Mr. John Nolen, Director of Planning of that Commission, presented a plan for the treatment of the area adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin. Gen. Grant said that he believed a basic landscape plan should be agreed upon so that there will be no encroachment on the area by building projects, either on the south or the north side of the Reflecting Basin.

The Commission advised Gen. Grant that for many years, ever since the Lincoln Memorial was completed in 1922, the Commission had considered the area adjacent to the Reflecting Basin as park area, and that when the temporary Munitions and Navy buildings are removed (as also President Roosevelt desired) the area would be planted with grass and trees similar to the Mall, of which it is a part.

Gen. Grant stated also that the area should be studied in relation to Potomac River flood control, and a grading plan of the area was inspected. He said the District Engineers propose to raise the embankment to 8 feet above mean low water, and that the high embankment between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument is distressing.

Major Clarke urged that proposed baseball diamonds, tennis courts and other active playground areas not be included in any plans for the redevelopment of the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial. The Commission concurred in preserving the wooded area existing on the south side of the Reflecting Basin.

Dr. Cret suggested the construction of a terrace wall as a flood dike along the north side of the bosque north of the Reflecting Basin; this, the Commission thought, would appeal to the District Engineer of the Army.

Major Clarke asked about the Flood Control situation. Gen. Grant replied that in the great flood of 1942 the water was 10% less than in 1936, but the water was one and one-half feet higher. This was due to the Airport fill and the temporary Pontoon Bridges placed in the Potomac.

Consideration was then given to the Washington Monument Grounds.

The Chairman stated that the Commission would address a letter to General Grant with respect to this entire project for the preservation of the park area in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument (Exhibit F).

8. RELOCATION OF THE MCMILLAN FOUNTAIN: Mr. Harry T. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent, National Capital Parks, submitted the following Memorandum on the subject:

May 2, 1945.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

As requested in a letter of March 26 from Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary to the Commission of Fine Arts, to the Office of National Capital Parks, there is transmitted herewith an estimate of cost to re-erect the McMillan Fountain in West Potomac Park between Ash Drive and Independence Avenue on the Magnolia crosswalk. The estimate is attached to an original tracing of a drawing entitled 'Relocation Plan: McMillan Fountain', drawing #NCP 76-484, which indicates a specific location with relationship to existing trees in this vicinity. Although the estimate includes an item for supporting the paving on piles, the settlement in this area is so slight, approximately 3/100 ins.

per year according to tests made by the U. S. Engineer Office, that an additional expenditure of $2,800 seems excessive.

There is also enclosed an original drawing without number, entitled 'Relocation Plan: McMillan Fountain, West Terminus of Constitution Avenue', which suggests an alternate location for the McMillan Fountain, which the Commission might wish to consider.

The cost for re-erecting the fountain in either location would be approximately the same since piles would be required in either case for the fountain proper. The cost of developing the grounds in the immediate vicinity of the fountain is not included in the estimate. I should imagine that $3,000 would be sufficient to provide a proper setting in either case.

In this connection, it will be of interest to the Commission to know that the U. S. Engineer Office at First and Douglas Streets, advises that that Office is prepared to contribute $9,000 toward the re-erection of the fountain if a suitable site can be found.

There might be a number of questions relative to the problem at hand which would make a memorandum of this kind too lengthy for the Commission's review and I would be pleased to discuss the estimates and plans with the Commission when the problem of re-erecting the McMillan Fountain is considered.

Sincerely yours,
Harry T. Thompson,
Assistant Superintendent.

General Grant said he had heard the Commission wants to have the fountain re-erected on Magnolia Avenue, but pleaded that the area be kept intact since it is a memorial grove arranged for by the Garden Club of America.

As to a suggestion that the McMillan Fountain be located in the hemicycle at the west end of Constitution Avenue, near the Potomac River, this was disapproved, since the fountain would be out of scale on this site.

A location was then considered at the northeast corner of the Capitol Grounds, where there is a triangle of considerable size. Dr. Cret advised that this fountain requires an intimate setting, not a monumental setting, and that location was therefore disapproved.

General Grant then stated that it is proposed to redesign the Rose Garden west of the Tidal Basin, and that a location there would very probably be found for the fountain. The Commission suggested that the Office of National Capital Parks give this matter study and that a location plan be submitted at the next meeting of the Commission.

A report was sent to Mr. Root; and the offer of $9,000 as a contribution from the U.S.Engineer Office was accepted with thanks (Exhibit G and G-1)

9. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL: Mr. F. H. Brooke, architect, presented a design for an Exedra which has been suggested for a District of Columbia World War II Memorial. He said the American Legion has endorsed the scheme, as well as 20 other organizations, and had asked him to make the design for the memorial, which the veterans desire to be near the Memorial Band Stand, which he designed for the District of Columbia World War I Memorial. The location suggested for the Exedra is to the east of the Band Stand.

The National Park Service protested against the location of the Exedra at the site proposed in a Memorandum from Mr. A. E. Demaray, Associate Director (Exhibit H).

Mr. Brooke said in view of the discussion with reference to a landscape treatment for West Potomac Park he had some doubt as to whether the Exedra should be located at the site proposed, but he felt the two memorials should be in proximity to each other.

General Grant stated that the public would regard the Exedra as being an arch, whereas a Memorial Arch should be monumental as the Etoille in Paris and have a location as prominent. He favored a Memorial Arch for Lincoln Park.

Major Clarke said the problem of war memorials is becoming a big one and it is unfortunate that they cannot all be considered at one time. Numerous war memorial projects are coming before the Commission.

Mr. Broke said the District of Columbia War Memorial Bandstand was erected eight years after the end of World War I, and like that one the World War II Memorial is to be erected without expense to the Government through contributions from District of Columbia citizens.

Mr. Finley said he would prefer a memorial fountain for the District of

Columbia World War II Memorial.

Dr. Cret then remarked that columns around the existing Bandstand might be appropriate. It was stated that there are not enough seats in the locality for those who come to hear the concerts. Further development of the idea resulted in the suggestion of two peristyles in the form of hemicycles to flank the Memorial Bandstand.

A letter was sent to Mr. Brooke offering the idea for adoption, instead of the Exedra (Exhibit M-1).

10. PAN AMERICAN ANNEX: General Grant brought to the attention of the Commission the question of selecting another location for the Pan American Annex than the one designated south of the New Interior Department Building. He said that as a result of the recent International Conference at Chapultepec (Mexico City) indications are that the Pan American will need a much larger building than heretofore considered. He said also that the Director of the Pan American Union, Dr. Rowe, does not object to a relocation if a good site can be found.

The Commission considered several squares west of the New Interior Department Building, and this matter is to be given further study by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in conference with Dr. Rowe and Dr. Cret.

It was pointed out that possibly the "Public Health Service Building" at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue, now occupied by the Allied Generals, could be made available after the War, since the Public Health Service has moved to new buildings in Bethesda.

Major Clarke said the Commission of Fine Arts would interpose no objection to a new site for the Pan American Annex if Dr. Rowe concurs.

11. GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BUILDING. Mr. N. P. Thompson, Senior Architect of the Hospital Unit, Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency, submitted prints of a restudy for the exterior of the George Washington University Hospital Building, made by the architects, Faulkner and Kinsbury.

Duplicate sets of prints had been sent to the architect members of the Commission by the Secretary and they had generally approved the revised design.

Dr. Cret made several suggestions in matters of detail, in particular as to the treatment of the entrance doorways, and these will be embodied in a design, which is to be submitted to the Commission for final approval.

12. GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BUILDING: Mr. N. P. Thompson, Senior Architect of the Hospital Unit, Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency, submitted prints of the revised design for the exterior of the Georgetown University Hospital building, by Kaiser, Neal and Read, architects.

This design had been brought to the attention of the architect members of the Commission, Messrs. Lamb, Cret and Holabird, and they had generally approved it. They considered it a considerable improvement over the former design submitted. The Commission concurred.

Dr. Cret made a few suggestions in matters of detail and these are to be embodied in a further drawing. Chairman Clarke requested that the Office of Public Buildings have the architects submit elevations of the designs for consideration by the Commission. Mr. Thompson said his office would do this.

13. POTOMAC RIVER DAMS: The Commission concurred in the letter sent by the Chairman, protesting against the construction of great dams in the Potomac River as proposed by the U. S. Engineer Office (Exhibit I)

Chairman Clarke stated that the letter was presented at the Hearing held on April 3, 1945, in Washington, and that as a result of that Hearing

the Army Board of Engineers decided to submit an adverse report as to the project. The Commission were much pleased to hear this.

14. BRIDGE FOR THE WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE PARKWAY. The National Park Service submitted drawings for a new bridge on the Washington-Baltimore Parkway. The Chairman selected Design No.3, and the National Park Service was informed accordingly (Exhibit J). The Commission concurred in this action.

15. ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM BUILDING: The architects of this building submitted the following letter with a set of drawings and prints:

March 14, 1945

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

We have recently been engaged in making a restudy of the interior arrangements of the above proposed building. These changes were made under a contract with the U. S. Army District Engineers which contains the usual stipulation that the drawings must meet with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

You will remember that the same project was presented to the Commission in 1941 and received its approval.

The major change embodied in the new sketches, copies of which are included herewith, consists in a relocation of the Museum areas from the westerly half to the easterly half of the building. This, of course, necessitates a shift of the side street Museum entrance from Third Street to Fourth Street. The switch of location of the Library and Museum was necessitated by a desire to have a closer connection with the facilities of the Library of Congress Annex.

Other interior changes in plan arrangement were dicated by a substantial increase in the Library staff and a desire to have the main reading room and charge desk on the first floor instead of on the second where it was formerly located.

There has been no change in the following essentials of the building:

The heights of its various component parts;
The dimensions of the front and sides;
Its location on the property
Its design and material.

Perspective views of the East Capitol Street front showing the side on Third Street and the same front showing the Museum entrance on Fourth Street are included with the floor plans.

May we have early consideration of this matter, and a letter signifying your approval if possible so that copies of same may be forwarded to the District Engineer's Office.

Yours truly,
Eggers and Higgins,
Otto R. Eggers.

The design was sent to Mr. Lamb and Dr. Cret and they approved it. A letter was sent by the Chairmanto Eggers and Higgins accordingly (Exhibit K) The Commission concurred in this action by the Chairman.

16. REVISED DESIGN FOR ENTRANCE TO NEW BUILDING AT SUITLAND, MD.: A revised design for the entrance to the proposed new building at Suitland, Maryland, was received from the Public Buildings Administration, and submitted to the architect members of the Commission, who approved it. The Chairman informed the Public Buildings Administration accordingly (Exhibit L) and the Commission ratified this action by the Chairman.

17. STATUE OF NATHAN HALE: Under date of April 4, 1945, the following letter was received:

205 Church Street, New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I refer again to your letter of February 20th to Mr. Louis L. Hemingway, Trust Officer of The Second National Bank, of New Haven, which is the Executor of the Will of Mr. George Dudley Seymour, and to my letter of March 19th to you.

Mr. Carl A. Lohmann, Secretary of Yale University, has given us the detailed dimensions of the statue of Nathan Hale which is on the campus at Yale and which is a duplicate of the one given by Mr. Seymour to the United States to be set up in Washington. Mr. Lohmann has written as follows:

"Here are the dimensions of the Nathan Hale statue which stands in front of Connecticut Hall. The bronze casting is over-all 6' 6 1/2" high. The figure itself is 6' 3". The bronze base is 3 1/2" thick and 23" square. The granite base on which this bronze casting stands is 3' 1/2" high and 30" square. The total heights of the bronze statue and granite base, ground to the top of head, is 9' 8"."

In sending this information he enclosed a pen sketch showing the dimensions which I enclose herewith for your information,

W. B. Gumbart
(Of Watrous, Gumbard & Corbin, Attorneys)

Also photographs of the statue were received.

The following Memorandum was received from the Office of National Capital Parks:

May 3, 1945.

Memorandum for Mr. Caemmerer:

Reference is made to your memorandum to me of April 10 requesting an estimate for the erection of the statue of Nathan Hale. It would seem as though the $1,000 mentioned in Mr. William Gumbart's letter of March 19 to the Commission of Fine Arts would be sufficient to cover all expenses in connection with the erection of this statue when a suitable site is found and legislation authorizing its erection is obtained. I presume that the Commission of Fine Arts will advise

Mr. Gumbert as to who should sponsor the necessary legislation.

Estimate for erection of Nathan Hale Statue

Crate and deliver to railroad		$100.00
Railroad express	3800 lbs. at $2.81 cw	107.00
Prepare base		100.00
Unload, transport to site and set up		400.00
		$707.00

H. T. Thompson,
Assistant Superintendent.

The letter from Mr. Gumbert dated March 19,1945, advising that the Estate has made $1000 available for the purpose above mentioned was noted, and a copy thereof is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes (Exhibit M)

Consideration was given to the question of selection of a location for the statue in the District of Columbia, and it is to be given further consideration pending the enactment of necessary legislation by Congress.

A letter was sent to Mr. Hemingway with draft of Joint Resolution Exhibit M-1

18. INSPECTION OF WORKS OF ART AT THE FREER GALLERY OF ART: The Commission viewed several works of art at the Freer Gallery, presented by Director Wenley for inspection and approved them (Exhibit N). The Commission were much impressed by these works of art, particularly two horses carved in wood.

19.ADVERTISING SIGNS IN UNION STATION: Under date of April 23, 1945, the following letter was received from Howard S. LeRoy, an attorney of Washington:

> "It has come to my attention through Mr. R. B. Swett, a fellow member of the Harvard Club here and a trained and experienced architect who has keen interest in public welfare, that steps are being taken to make certain alterations in the interior of the Union Station for the purpose of advertising use.
>
> "As I understand that the Union Station here is an outstanding piece of architectural work of great value both to the National Capital and to the country, I am inclined to believe that any structural changes which might mar the building should be very carefully considered by the appropriate authorities before any such project is authorized. I am thus writing to express my personal views, although, I happen also to be president of the Washington Rotary Club this year and should it be necessary or desirable to do so, I would be glad to refer the matter to one of the club committees which might be interested.
>
> "This is in no way in criticism of Mr. Tolson or any of the other railroad officials, who I believe have been quite active in

preserving the building in its original state."

The Secretary informed the Commission that Mr. J. Gilbert Nettleton, General Agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, had informed him that the Board of Overseers of Union Station had made a contract with a New York firm for dioramas in Union Station, and that no ordinary advertising is permitted.

The Commission discussed the subject, and expressed displeasure over the fact that these advertising media are being installed. Their value as advertising is limited and it establishes a bad precedent. The Commission expressed the hope that these dioramas will be removed at the earliest opportunity and that no additional ones will be added. Mr. Nettleton and Mr. B. R. Tolson, Manager of Union Station were so informed (Exhibit O and O-1).

20. MUSEUM AT THE WHITE HOUSE: The Secretary presented the following Memorandum for purposes of record and future reference:

April 20, 1945.

Memorandum for Mr. Clarke:

In view of a report that Mrs. Roosevelt leaves the White House tomorrow, I called Mr. Crim and talked with him about the gifts of articles which President Roosevelt received for the proposed Museum.

Mr. Crim said that he is custodian of the objects and that the matter will not be forgotten. It is understood that the Museum will not be installed until after the War. The rooms are crowded now with offices.

H.P.Caemmerer.

21. SPANISH AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL: Under date of April 28, 1945, the National Park Service transmitted copy of correspondence (together with map) with Hon. Curtis Hixon, Mayor of Tampa, Florida, advising that the War Department wishes to install an outer marker on grounds of the proposed Spanish War Memorial Park at Tampa; and that the National Park Service has no objection to offer, but felt the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts should be secured in this matter since the Commission had approved plans for it.

The Commission considered the matter and inspected the map, noting the location selected for the marker. The Commission interposed no objection

to the installation of the marker at the site proposed, and Mayor Hixon was informed accordingly (Exhibit P)

21. VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE: The Commission had the pleasure of inspecting the State Rooms at the White House with Mr. H. G. Crim, Chief Usher. Mr. Crim wanted suggestions in particular with reference to hanging portraits of the Presidents, and certain suggestions were made but the matter was also referred to the Sub-Committee of the Commission of Fine Arts on White House furnishings for the State Rooms.

It was noted that several changes should be made in the rooms. A Memorandum on the subject was prepared for the information of the Commission and of the Committee above mentioned (Exhibit Q)

The Commission adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

t of a Meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Commission of Fine Arts,
TE State Rooms of the White House, held at the White House, Washington,
, on March 23, 1945.

Upon invitation of Mrs. Roosevelt, Major Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman of,the Fine Arts Commission, and its Sub-committee which advises upon furnishings, Replacements and Gifts for the State Rooms of the White House, met at the White House at twelve o'clock on Friday, March 23rd, and enjoyed Mrs. Roosevelt's hospitality at luncheon.

Mrs. Roosevelt walked with us through the State Rooms and the basement, and upon her invitation we saw the family rooms upon the second floor.

We offer the following suggestions:

The basement corridor is in need of complete refurnishing. The new wing has made available in the basement commodious dressing rooms and reception rooms. With proper furnishing the long corridor could be a most attractive and welcoming entrance. Conversations with different members revealed very definite suggestions for the improvement of this corridor.

Our two years absence emphasized again the symmetry of arrangement and the graciousness of the individual State Rooms on the ground floor. Much can be done for the embellishment and proper furnishing of the Green Room, the Blue Room, the Red Room and the East Room. We noticed the absence of suitable ornaments for the Green Room. We are mindful that smaller ornaments are tempting as souvenirs and we are hopeful that time with furnish ornaments of size and elegance.

The Blue Room is sadly in need of a portrait or a mirror over the mantel. The Red Room carpet lacks the distinction which we think the Red Room deserves. We offer no solution at the moment.

We were charmed by the beautiful little French clock which this Committee gave to the Red Room for the mantel. We suggest the raiding of the portrait and we are hopeful that in time more appropriate mantel ornaments may replace the white marble ornaments not upon the mantel.

There was earnest discussion concerning the East Room. We would like to suggest the consideration of but one chandelier in the East Room. Over the years, since their installation, the ponderous chandeliers in the East Room have been the subject of much criticism. The room is a superlatively beautiful room. we suggest that its beauty would be greatly enhanced if its ceiling space were less crowded and it contained but one central chandelier. We suggest that one of the smaller end chandeliers might be appropriate. Those of us who have been entertained in the East Room found the light somewhat glaring and uncomfortable. We suggest that the eight

candelabra standing two each upon the four separate mantels be wired with small bulbs. These bulbs would give a soft light and would be above eye level, and with the four torchons in the corners more strongly lighted and with but one chandelier, we feel that the lighting and appearance of the East Room would be greatly improved.

This suggestion should receive careful study.

We wish to again express our appreciation and our gratitude to Mrs. Roosevelt for her gracious reception of this Sub-committee of the Fine Arts Commission, and we wish to express also our deep interest in the future usefulness of this Committee.

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission -Ex officio

Mrs. Harold Irving Pratt
Chairman, Sub-Committee

Mrs. Harry H. Benkard
(absent, but kept informed about the meeting)

William Adams Delano

David E. Finley

Luke Vincent Lockwood

c.c to:
Fine Arts Commission
Mr. Crim, White House
Mrs. Helm, White House

April 11, 1945

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 27, 1945

My dear Mrs. Pratt:

Mrs. Truman was much interested in hearing of the Sub-committee of the Fine Arts Commission. She feels it is most valuable to have an advisory group who are interested in making suggestions about preserving the dignity of the White House and for such changes or additions as it deems appropriate.

She has asked me to thank you for sending her the report of the Sub-committee, and to say that of course she feels nothing can be done during the war, but she hopes that when the time comes for any changes in the White House furnishings that the suggestions made in the report and any others in the future can be carefully studied.

Very Sincerely yours,

Edeith Helm

Mrs. J. M. Helm
Secretary to Mrs. Truman

Mrs. Harold I Pratt
635 Park Avenue
New York 21

Exhibit B

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Washington

May 7, 1945.

Dear Mr. Crim:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 4, 1945, approved the portrait of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, by Ellen Emmet Rand, for the White House.

The Commission wish to thank you for theopportunity given to inspect the portrait during the afternoon.

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman

Hon. H. G. Crim,
Chief Usher,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit C

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Washington

May 7, 1945.

Dear Mr. Garfield:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 4, 1945, viewed the portrait of President Garfield by Cal Curtis, which your family offered to President Roosevelt to replace the one now in the White House.

The Commission were much pleased with the portrait and consider it a decided improvement over the one now there.

Arrangements are being made to have the portrait sent to the White House.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman

Mr. James Garfield,

30 State Street,

Boston 9, Massachusetts.

Exhibit D

May 9, 1945.

Dear Mr. Wyeth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 4, 1945, approved the designs you submitted for two additional buildings at the Gallinger Hospital, namely a Pediatric Building and a Laboratory Building.

As to the Pediatric Building, the Commission suggest that the limestone trim of the two middle stories be omitted; also that the glass block panel in the stairway be narrowed.

As to the Laboratory Building, the Commission suggest that the limestone trim of the middle story be omitted; also that the glass block panel in the stairway be narrowed.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman

Hon. Nathan C. Wyeth,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit E

May 9th, 1945

Dear General Grant -

We were delighted to have you and certain members of your staff meet with us last Friday. I should like to have you feel free at any time to meet with us in order that we may take up those matters which are of mutual interest to both Commissions. Mr. Caemmerer will keep you informed of the time of our meetings so that we may have you with us in the event that there are problems appropriate for the attention of both bodies.

We are still concerned about the acquisition of certain lands in Virginia, north of the Arlington Cemetery, in order to prevent the erection of apartments or other private buildings in areas which would be in view from points within the limits of the Mall, from its northerly limit at Constitution Avenue south to the line of the Tidal Basin. We believe that this is one of the most important immediate problems to be solved in the National Capital area. This is a problem on which we assume the Planning Commission will take the leadership. While we fully appreciate the difficulties involved and the fact that it will take time to accomplish the desired results, we are impressed with the fact that the private ownership of certain lands in Virginia north of Arlington Cemetery remain a threat to the integrity of the Central Composition of the Capital. Therefore, if the Commission of Fine Arts can be of assistance in helping to solve this important problem, we shall be glad to take such action as may be appropriate in the circumstances. Will you be kind enough to advise me with respect to the present status of this matter?

We are interested in the plans now in the course of preparation for that part of the Central Composition immediately south of Constitution Avenue from the Washington Monument Grounds to the vicinity of 23rd Street, plans which first involve the removal of the Navy and Munitions Buildings, erected in 1917, together with certain accretions built to serve this War. While the prevention of the spread of flood waters beyond the Mall seems to necessitate the

raising of the ground on both sides of 17th Street, it appears that this requirement may ultimately prove to be a distinct advantage, for a cursory study of the problem indicates that the area north of the Reflecting Basin to Constitution Avenue may be greatly improved by taking full advantage of this requirement to stop the spread of flood waters to areas north of Constitution Avenue.

The Commission of Fine Arts earnestly hope that the plans for this area may be developed ideally and without thought of compromise. We are confident that the very best solution of the problem will obtain in the ultimate carrying out of the plans for we believe thoroughly in the ability of the two Commissions and of the National Park Service jointly to convince the appropriate authorities that only the best scheme for the development of this last remaining element of the Mall should be carried out. To this endwe urge that the area along the south side of Constitution Avenue, now occupied by buildings, be planned as a naturalistic park area,within the rigid borders of the straight avenues, roads, and walks, with broad expanses of lawn with trees in mass, in groups, and singly, composed in a manner appropriate for passive recreation and in keeping with the immediate environment of two of the greatest memorials ever erected, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

This is no place for active, noisy recreation; the area belongs to the people of the United States and it should therefore not be dedicated especially for use by government employees and other residents of Washington as baseball and football fields.

As previously indicated, we believe that the basic engineering requirements for the control of flood waters may be treated as a challenge to the designer to create a composition for this important section of the Mall which will be more interesting than might otherwise be possible. To this end, we trust that Dr. Cret's suggestion of constructing a wall, extending from 17th Street westerly until it runs into the grade near the southerly extension of 21st Street, on a line north of the bosque of trees immediately north of the Reflecting Basin, be given careful study. It was suggested that a broad tree lined promenade, elevated above the existing grade along the top of the wall be provided; from the north border of this promenade the lawns would slope gently down to Constitution Avenue. At 17th Street, which should be kept on its present gradient, a portal would be formed between the terminii of the long wall to the west and a short wall running into the graded slopes on the east. At this portal, which may be designed to form an important element in the scheme, a temporary barrier may be erected

when flood waters threaten.

We deplore any scheme which provides for long, straight paths crossing the contours at more or less right angles, within the Washington Monument Grounds. This area demands the most careful study; as an element in the Mall composition it forms a transition space between the long Mall rectangle east of 14th Street, the Reflecting Basin area west of 17th Street, the Ellipse and Executive Group north of Constitution Avenue, and the Tidal Basin and Jefferson Memorial south of Independence Avenue. The extension of straight paths across this great square is incongruous and provides a wholly inadequate solution to this most important design problem.

We shall be interested in reviewing with you subsequent studies related to these sections of the Central Composition.

Sincerely yours,

for the COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman

Major General U. S. Grant III, Chairman
National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Caemmerer

May 11th, 1945

Dear Mr. Root -

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 4, 1945, considered the question of re-erecting the McMillan Fountain. The subject was discussed with General Grant and with Mr. Thompson of you Office, who furnished this Commission with an estimate of cost.

General Grant advised against placing the fountain in Magnolia Avenue because he thought that it would involve the removal of a number of trees. It was pointed out to him that only two magnolia trees are effected and it is proposed to move these. Nevertheless the Commission agreed to study an alternate location or locations. One site which was suggested, the western terminus of Constitution Avenue, was disapproved.

Another site suggested, which might prove suitable, is in the relocated Rose Garden as one element in a revised plan which we understand is to be made in the near future. The Commission would be pleased to have your Office submit a design for consideration showing a site for the McMillan Fountain in this new Garden.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Mr. Irving C. Root, Superintendent,
National Capital Parks,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit G

copy for Mr. Caemmerer

May 11th, 1945

Dear Mr. Schmitt -

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on May 4, 1945, the Commission were informed by Mr. Harry T. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent, National Capital Parks, Department of the Interior, that the United States Engineer Office is prepared to contribute $9,000 towards the re-erection of the McMillan Fountain.

The Commission wish to thank the United States Engineer Office for this generous offer, and wish to ask that the amount be held for that purpose, pending the selection of a location.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Mr. E.A. Schmitt
Senior Engineer, District Office
U. S. Engineer Office
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit G-1

Standard Form No. 64

OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To: General Grant, National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Date: March 28, 1945.
From: Mr. A. E. Demaray, Nationa Park Service.

Subject: Proposed Memorial in West Potomac Park.

As requested in your memorandum to me of March 10, we have examined the proposal to erect a memorial in West Potomac Park in honor of the District of Columbia dead as suggested by plans prepared by Mr. Frederick C. Brooks. An investigation of the suggested site prompts me to say the National Park Service believes that the site is not adequate or appropriate for the erection of a memorial of the size and type proposed.

We now have the John Paul Jones Statue and the District of Columbia War Memorial in this general vicinity. The Commission of Fine Arts has suggested a location and is prepared to sponsor the re-erection of the McMillan Fountain in the wooded area to the west of the D. C. War Memorial in the vicinity of the Magnolia crosswalk. The introduction of an additional memorial in the wooded panel between Ash Drive and Independence Avenue would have the effect of creating a row of monuments in this one rather restricted area.

The proposed memorial is to commemorate the participation of the men and women of the District of Columbia in what is undoubtedly the greatest national effort that this country has made in its entirely history. The setting of any memorial of such importance, whatever its design, should be in keeping with the great importance attached to this greatest of all national efforts. There come to mind the propriety of placing two war memorial commemorating two consecutive wars so close to each other but he would leave this matter to the discretion of others concerned with their erection.

While the proposed memorial is of far greater mass then the nearby John Paul Jones Statue, the site suggested would result in the unfortunate effect of placing the more important monument in a far less important setting, thereby reducing its relative significance. The axial relation suggested by the designer of the plan could be obtained.only by the destruction of a large number of fine trees. The suggested setting would have no relationship to anything existing in the surrounding area nor would it, in our opinion, have a suitable backdrop, foreground, or approach from any direction. Spanning a suggested allee connecting the D. C. War Memorial with 17th Street, it would relate neither to 17th Street nor to either of the bordering roadways.

As viewed from the D. C. War Memorial, the second war memorial has no axial relationship to the former in that a curving walkway serves to twist the proposed memorial completely out of sight even though a wide swath were to be cut through the existing forest grove to accommodate the full width of the suggested connecting allee.

As viewed from the John Paul Jones Statue, the proposed memorial would have a most unfortunate setting since the entire arrangement of the existing trees is sharply angular to the inscription facade as proposed by the designer. I refer to the double row of sycamore trees paralleling Independence Avenue

Exhibit H

Standard Form No. 64

OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To:

Date:

From:

Subject:

and in particular to the fine row of ancient American Elms that would cut slantwise across the view. It is presumed that the sponsors of the memorial would not ask that the elm trees and a swath, that would be 50 feet or greater in its width, be cut through the grove of holly, oak and other permanent trees that have been so carefully preserved to provide what would in any event amount to an unsatisfactory setting for the memorial proposed.

There is attached a small diagrammatic sketch which will explain that a memorial of approximately 100 feet in its main axial dimension would span almost entirely the distance between Ash Drive and Independence Avenue if placed as suggested some 300 feet from 17th Street. I presume that the plot plan used was not based on current data which will explain its being so much out of scale. It would be possible, of course, to slide the memorial westward on tha axial string walk toward the D. C. War Memorial some 300 feet in order to provide a setting comparable to that suggested by the plan but every foot the memorial is moved in this direction would destroy additional trees. It is this very unstable feature of the plan arrangements whereby it seems possible to slide the memorial like a bead on a string along the curving walkway that suggests that the site is not suitable.

I might mention that the treatment of a sharply converging angular area such as the area bordered by Ash Drive and Independence Avenue is the most difficult of all ground areas to treat successfully and particularly where memorials are concerned.

The National Park Service is entirely sympathetic with the idea of a memorial to the D. C. men and women who have participated in the present war but we would be most reluctant to consider the development of a memorial of the size and type suggested on the site proposed in West Potomac Park.

A. E. Demarary,

Associate Director.

Enslosure.
P.S. The plan and clippings attached to your memorandum of March 10 are returned herewith.

A. E. D.

May 9, 1945.

Dear Mr. Brooke:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 4, 1945, considered your design of an Exedra for the proposed District of Columbia World War II Memorial. The Commission noted the location suggested for the Memorial, east of the World War I Memorial Band Stand.

The Commission believe it would be a serious encroachment on the park area of West Potomac Park to permit the erection of the Exedra at the site proposed, and its erection there was disapproved.

The desirability of placing the proposed Memorial in proximity to the World War I Memorial is appreciated. During the discussion, Dr. Cret suggested as a World War II Memorial two peristyles in the form of hemicycles to flank the Memorial Band Stand, as indicated by the attached sketch. Pylons at the ends would provide space for the members of the armed forces of the District of Columbia that made the supreme sacrifice. It was pointed out that such a memorial would be in the memorial grove developed at the time General Cheatham planned for the location of the Memorial Band Stand.

If this suggestion is agreeable to you and the organizations interested, the Commission of Fine Arts would be pleased to see a drawing, using the sketch as a basis, for a consideration at a future meeting of the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Frederick H. Brooke, Architect,
3021 N Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Exhibit H-1

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Washington

April 2, 1945

The Army Board of Engineers
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Once again the engineers are attacking the problems related to the control of the waters of the Potomac in a wholly practical manner. They would harness these waters for two purposes, namely, the control of floods and the manufacture of electric power. Waterfalls and rapids have always been a challenge to the engineer; he usually possesses an insensate desire to impound great waters where the banks of rivers or streams are high and where the river gradients are sufficient to allow the creation of huge lakes behind high dams. We have witnessed the commendable work of the engineer in the valley and on the tributaries of the Tennessee River, in the valley of the Columbia, and in other great river valleys of the Nation; without doubt, the great dams he has built have made a notable contribution toward the winning of the War.

It seems to the Commission of Fine Arts, however, that the valley of the Potomac, more particularly that section from Washington to beyond Great Falls, is vastly different from other river valleys. The falls of the Potomac are different from other waterfalls. That they are less majestic than other great falls is doubtless true, but there is not a capital city in the world which can boast of such inspiring natural scenery, within and adjacent to its borders, as obtains along the Potomac in and near Washington.

The National Capital is not an industrial city; it never will be; hence water power is not an essential attribute of this region. The natural, unspoiled valley of the Potomac, and the river tumbling over the rocks at the Great Falls into the narrow wooded gorge and on below to Chain Bridge, where swift waters meet the sluggish stream as it flows between the rolling Maryland and Virginia hills to the Chesapeake, remain the greater attributes.

In this gorge of the Potomac, Americans have a great heritage to protect. We have already sacrificed the scenic beauty of many other great valleys to satisfy the need for power for great industrial centers, thus to further the development of our national economy; but here, in and near Washington, we urge that nature in the raw and at her best be retained in perpetuity as an example of natural beauty for future generations of Americans to enjoy. We cannot build dams, no matter how well done, and at the same time continue to enjoy this indispensable asset of the

Nation's Capital. Man-made scenery never has equalled what unspoiled Nature has left for us and we shall be much the poorer if the engineer is allowed to place his destructive hands over the valley of the Potomac and thus forever to deprive the Nation's Capital and the people of the United States of one of their great scenic assets.

Thus, we appeal to you to preserve forever the aesthetic values of the Potomac River Valley, that it may remain an asset of beauty for the enjoyment of countless millions of Americans throughout the years.

Flood control may be desirable, but flood control does not necessarily mean destructive construction. It may be accomplished by less arbitrary and less destructive means than by the building of river dams, more particularly in the lower section of the Potomac Valley above Washington to beyond Great Falls.

We have at Great Falls, and in the valley below, a work of art left us to be protected in the form of a great park for the enjoyment of all of the people of Washington, and for those who visit the National Capital from all parts of this country,- in fact, from every part of the world. The valley of the Potomac incorporates all desirable park-like qualities; all that is required is perpetual protection and care.

In weighing the values of this valley for different uses, it is the considered opinion of this Commission, as we believe it is the opinion of the large majority of citizens interested in the National Capital, that in this case beauty should forever take the place of utility and that every means should be used to keep this unique asset in its present untouched state as an important scenic adjunct of the Capital of the Nation. We are confident that the requirements of flood control may be met without the necessity of resorting to the wanton destruction of this single remaining untouched remnant of Nature's achievement in this region, a great and irreplaceable asset of the environs of the National Capital.

Very respectfully yours,

FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

April 5, 1945.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

With reference to your letter of March 30th, with which you submitted revised studies for a grade separation structure carrying the Washington-Baltimore Parkway under the B & O Railroad and the Annapolis Junction Road, I have to inform you, at the request of Mr. Clarke, that the Commission of Fine Arts approve Scheme 3.

Sincerely yours,

H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary

Mr. Harry T. Thompson,
Assistant Superintendent,
National Capital Parks,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit J

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Washington

March 23, 1945.

Dear Mr. Eggers:

The revised drawings which you submitted, with photographs, for the Army Medical Library and Museum building, have received the attention of architect members of the Commission of Fine Arts. Upon their recommendation the Commission approve them.

The Commission reaffirm the ruling made at a meeting held October 18, 1941, as set forth in a letter addressed to you on October 20th, that appropriate sculptured elements take the place of the architectural forms indicated on your drawings at the entrance to the Library and to the Musuem.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE

Gilmore D. Clatke,
Chairman.

Exhibit K

Mr. Otto R. Eggers,
Eggers and Higgins, Architects,
542 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

March 23, 1945.

Dear Mr. Underwood:

The perspective view of your revised design for the central motive of the proposed building at Suitland, Maryland, which you submitted with your letter of March 19th, has been brought to the attention of Dr. Paul P. Cret, architect member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Upon his recommedation, the Commission approve the design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman

Mr. Gilbert Stanley Underwood,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit L

WATROUS, GUMBART & CORBIN

Counsellors at Law

March 19, 1945.

The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Attention of Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary.

Gentlemen:

We represent The Second National Bank of New Haven, Executor of the will of the late George Dudley Seymour, who bequeathed a bronze statue of Nathan Hale to the United States, for erection in Washington, D. C. Mr. Hemingway, Chairman of the Board, and Trust Officer, of The Second National Bank of New Haven, has referred to us your letter to him of February 20th 1945, which is in response to his letter of February 13th.

In your letter you state that the erection of the statue on public grounds will require an Act of Congress. Since Congress will be guided by the recommendation of your Commission, will you please let us know whether the Commission will take care of getting the necessary legislation, in case it is favorable to the erection of the statue, or do you wish us to make arrangements through some of our Representatives or Senators?

The statue appearing on page 562 of "The Documentary Life of Nathan Hale" is a photograph of the Hale Statue on the Yale Campus. The one which is bequeathed to the Government is a duplicate of the one on the Campus, and is now at Nathan Hale's Birthplace in Coventry, Connecticut. The height of the statue from the top of the pedestal to the top of the head is six feet, three inches.

The Estate will provide the expense of shipping the statue to Washington, and for its erection, assuming this will not require more than $1,000.

Sincerely yours,

WBG:N

W. B. Gumbart

Exhibit M

May 9, 1945.

Dear Mr. Hemingway:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 4, 1945, gave further consideration to the question of erecting the statue of Nathan Hale in the District of Columbia.

The matter was taken up with the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and a tentative estimate was received from that Office which indicated that the statue could be brought to Washington and set up at an appropriate location for $1.000, which amount it is understood the Executors of the Will of George Dudley Seymour have made available for this purpose.

Attached hereto is the draft of a Joint Resolution. It is suggested that the Executors bring this to the attention of a Member of Congress from Connecticut (either House or Senate or both), with the request that it be introduced in Congress.

In the meantime the Commission of Fine Arts will give further consideration to the question of selecting a location for the statue.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Mr. Louis L. Hemingway, Trust Officer,
Second National Bank,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Exhibit M-1

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the erection in the District of Columbia of a statue of Nathan Hale.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to grant authority to The Second National Bank, of New Haven, Connecticut, Executor of the estate of the late George Dudley Seymour, to erect the bronze statue of Nathan Hale, bequeathed by him to the United States of America, including pedestal, on an appropriate site on grounds now owned by the United States in the District of Columbia: Provided, That the site chosen shall be approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts, and the United States shall be put to now expense in or by the erection of this statue; Provided further, That unless the erection of this statue is begun within five years from and after the date of passage of this joint resolution, the authorization hereby granted is revoked.

COPY FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

The Regents of the Smithsonian, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs, Eugene E. Mayer, as provided in Paragraph 4 or the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

1 Pottery vase, Chinese, Southern Kuan.

1 Bronze vessel of the type ting. Chinese, Shang dynasty.

1 Bronze Buddhist statue. Chinese, Wei dynasty.

1 Pair of wooden horses. Chinese T'ang dynasty.

1 Bronze kettle, ornamented with silver inlay. Work of Islamic craftsmen in Vencie, late-15th century.

1 Bronze ewer. Sassanian period, 7th-8th century.

1 Egypto-Arabic bookbinding, 14th century.

1 Page from a Koran. Arabic, 9th century. Kufic script.

1 Page from a Koran. Arabic, 9th century, Kufic script.

1 Page from a Koran. East Persia, 10th century.

1 Page from a Koran. Arabic, 8th century. Eleven lines of writing in Kufic script on a cloudy blue ground.

1 Fragment of a page from a Koran. Arabic, 14th century. Thulth script.

1 Painting. Page from a Shahamah, with additional leaf of calligraphy. Persian, early 14th century. Dervish meeting soldiers in front of his house.

1 Painting. Page from a Shahnamah, with additional leaf of calligraphy. Persian, early 14th century. The Death of the Simurgh.

Exhibit N

1 Painting. Page from a Shahnamah, with additional leaf of calligraphy. Persian, early 14th century. The Dev throwing Rustam into the sea.

1 Painting. Page from a Shahnamah, with additional leaf of calligraphy. Persian. early 14th century. Meeting of a King and a hero on horseback.

1 Painting. Page from a Shahnamah, with additional leaf of calligraphy. Persian, early 14th century. Aruler holding an audience in front of his tent.

1 Painting. Page from a Shahnamah, with additional leaf of calligraphy. Persian, early 14th century. A Mongel horseman.

1 Painting. Page from a Baburnamah. Indian, Mughal, late 16th century. The Emperor Babur receiving an embassey.

1 Painting. Indian, Mughal, 2nd half of the 16th century. The abduction of a princess by sea.

1 Drawing. Indian, Mughal, 17th century. The World of Animals.

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenly, Director, and they herby approve the purchase.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Gilmore D. Clarke
For The Commission of Fine Arts.

May 4th, 1945.

May 10, 1945.

Dear Mr. Nettleton:

The Commission of Fine Arts have been informed that the Board of Overseers of Union Station have made a contract with a New York City advertising firm to install about half a dozen dioramas in Union Station.

The Commission express much displeasure over the fact that these advertising media are being installed. They may be temporary in nature and their value as advertising is limited. Nevertheless, it establishes a bad precedent to permit such advertising in what is regarded one of the beautiful and monumental semi-public buildings of the National Capital, and detracts from its dignity.

The Commission express the hope that these dioramas will be removed at the earliest opportunity and that no additional ones will be added.

For the Commission of Fine Arts;

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. J. Gilbert Nettleton,
General Agent, Pennsylvania Railroad,
Hibbs Building,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit O

May 10, 1945.

Dear Mr. Tolson:

The Commission of Fine Arts have been informed that the Board of Overseers of Union Station have made a contract with a New York City advertising firm to install about half a dozen dioramas in Union Station.

The Commission express much displeasure over the fact that these advertising media are being installed. They may be temporary in nature, and their value as advertising is limited. Nevertheless, it establishes a bad precedent to permit such advertising in what is regarded one of the beautiful and monumental semi-public buildings of the National Capital, and detracts from its dignity.

The Commission express the hope that these dioramas will be removed at the earliest opportunity and that no additional ones will be added.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Mr. B. R. Tolson, Manager,
Union Station,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit C-1

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Washington

May 7, 1945.

Dear Sir:

The National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts a copy of a letter addressed to you on April 28, 1945 (together with map), concerning the desire of the War Department to install an outer marker on grounds of the proposed Spanish War Memorial Park, in connection with the landing control system for MacDill Field.

This matter received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 4, 1945. The Commission interpose no objection to the installation of the marker as proposed.

Respectfully yours,

(SIGNED) GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman

Hon. Curtis Hixon,

Mayor of Tampa,

Tampa, Florida

Exhibit P

CC: National Park Service
Civil Aeronautics Administration

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE WHITE HOUSE
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Members of the Commission of Fine Arts, Messrs. Finley, Cret, Clarke and the Secretary, Mr. Caemmerer, visited the White House on Friday, May 4th, 1945, for the particular purpose of viewing a portrait of the late President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, painted in 1934 by the artist, Mrs. Ellen Emmet Rand. The portrait, which formerly hung on the second floor of the Executive Mansion, was placed for inspection on an easel in the East Room. The Commission, on behalf of the Government, voted to accept the portrait. It will be hung, according to custom, on the right of the entrance hall.

The members of the Commission took the opportunity to inspect certain public rooms of the White House; the following suggestions were made and the Secretary was directed to forward them to Mrs. Pratt, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the White House, for consideration by the Committee. A number of the items have already been the subject of discussion by the Committee; these have been included, nevertheless.

ENTRANCE HALL:

1. It was suggested to Mr. Crim that the four ugly brass standards with a red chord, a means for preventing persons walking on the brass reproduction of the Seal of the United States, be removed. The Commission of Fine Arts have always viewed this with disfavor and it was thought that this would be an appropriate time to remove these standards which are situated immediately inside the main entrance to the White House.

2. The members of the Commission hoped that more appropriate chairs will be secured for the two guards usually in attendance in this hall.

3. It was hoped that the two boxes for plants, separating the entrance lobby from the long hall extending from the East Room to the State Dining Room, may be appropriately planted. The potted plants in these boxes, and placed here and there throughout the two longer floors, were thought to be inappropriate.

4. When the portrait of late President Roosevelt is hung on the right of the entrance lobby, it will take the place of a portrait of Mr. Coolidge, which will be moved to the left side of the lobby to replace a portrait of Mr. Harding. The portrait of Mr. Hoover, by custom, should hang to the left of the lobby but it is too small.

BLUE ROOM:

1. A new rug is required; there is no rug in the Blue Room.

Exhibit Q

It was believed that this will have to be specially made and that, if possible, the design should be copied from the rug which was formerly in this room and which had the Great Seal as a central feature.

2. Mr. Finley would like to see an appropriate period mirrorover the mantel. Then, if the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washinton is ever acquired it may be hung on the wall opposite the fireplace. Only a portrait of the first President should hang in the Blue Room.

3. Mr. Cret thought that the crystal chandelier should be raised about a foot.

RED ROOM:

1. Mr. Crim advised that the clock presented by Mrs. Eustis to the White House for the Red Room is being repaired. When returned, Mr. Crim stated that it would be placed on the mantel in the Red Room.

2. A new appropriate rug is needed to replace the rug now in this room.

3. It was the judgment of the members of the Commission that the screen should be recovered.

4. The offensive ash receivers should be removed from this room. Simple glass ashtrays might be used; if they are stolen by souvenir hunters there will be no loss.

SMALL DINING ROOM:

1. It was the opinion of the Commission that the mirror over the mantel should be replaced by a portrait and Mr. Crim was so advised. The portrait of John Adams now in the ground floor hall was considered appropriate.

STATE DINING ROOM:

1. Space for three more portraits is available, one on the north wall and two on the East wall. It was suggested that the McKinley portrait, now in the long hall, might be hung on the north wall of the State Dining Room.

EAST ROOM:

1. After considerable discussion it was the judgment of those present that it would be unwise to suggest the removal of any of the crystal chandeliers; Mr. Crim thought it would be difficult to do this without a good deal of criticism. Mr. Cret thought that the East Room would be greatly improved if the three chandeliers were raised from 1' 1/6" to 2' 0". If this is done it might be necessary to remove the metal crests on top of the chandeliers.

2. Everyone present expressed the opinion that the old piano, now in the care of the Smithsonian Institution, would be much more appropriate in the East Room than the newer piano designed by Eric Gugler.

GROUND FLOOR CORRIDOR:

1. The Commission hoped that the tables, benches, bronzes and red carpets could be removed and appropriate tables, benches and a green runner substituted. This hall is exceedingly ugly and presents a most unfortunate impression to guests who must pass through it between the cloak-rooms and the main floor public rooms at time of receptions and other public gatherings.

PORTRAITS:

A study for a complete rearrangement of the portraits should be made by the Sub-Committee. The Commission thought that the small portraits over the doors in the ground floor corridor should be removed and hung elsewhere.

A smaller and better portrait of President Garfield has been received at the office of the Commission and will be sent to the White House. It was decided to ask the Secretary of the Smithsonian to store the large Garfield portrait now in the oval room under the Blue Room. If the Smithsonian will not take it, Mr. Finley agreed to store if for a while in the National Gallery of Art.